

Real Physics: Three Statements

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Statement 1: Real Physics is Essential to Graphics

Graphics “Rediscovery” of Physics

- Light
- Kinematics & Dynamics
- Fluid Mechanics
- Solid Mechanics
- ...

$$\tau = \mu \, du/dy$$

“Rediscovery” is necessary:

- Tech transfer: physics graphics terms
- Demonstrate application of concepts
- Simplification to computationally tractable models

Role of Physical Models in Graphics Applications

- Image as end product: *feature films, games, art*
Physical models a useful starting point.
- Image a means to and end: *design, simulation*
Physical models are essential.

What Physical Models Provide:

Compact representation:
parametric functions rather than masses of data

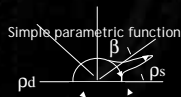
BRDF

Thousands of data points

qi	fi	qo	fo	f
0	0	0	0	.0001
0	5	0	0	.0001
0	10	0	0	.00022
...				
85	175	5	10	.0011

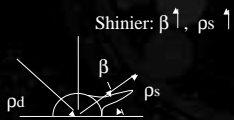
vs.

Simple parametric function



What Physical Models Provide:

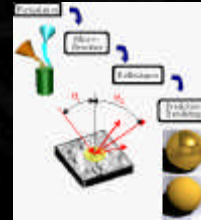
Parameters: natural to change
Useful when image is the end product



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What Physical Models Provide:

Reliable Predictions
Essential when image is a means to an end
e.g. Design of coatings



NIST
Appearance
Project

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Statement 2:
Physics "Rediscovery" for
Graphics is Complete

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"Rediscovery" is finished:

- All the major physical disciplines have been explored
- Major breakthroughs aren't needed to make use of models from other disciplines

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"Rediscovery" is finished:

- The goal of graphics is not perfectly accurate physics, we don't need to account for every photon.
- The goal of graphics is the perfect image. What would that be???

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Statement 3:
Perceptual Models are Needed
to Apply Physics

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Physical Models: Big Impact when Image is the End Product : films, games

- Author Decides "Good Enough"
- A Lot of Time + Money



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Physical Models Small Impact when Image is the Means to an End: Design, Simulation

- Image Must Be Visually Accurate
- Scarce Time + Money

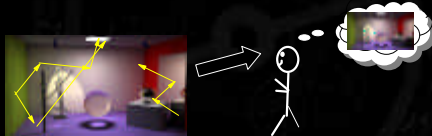


G. Ward
Radiance

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Making Reliable Images Inexpensively:

Physical Model + Perceptual Model



- Insures that physical model is accurate enough
- Prevents modeling every atom & photon

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Successful Perceptual Models:

- Tristimulus Model
- Tone Mapping

Some of the Outstanding Issues:

- Geometry
- Reflectance
- Motion

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1. Real Physics is Essential to Graphics
2. Physics "Rediscovery" for Graphics is Complete
3. Perceptual Models are Needed to Apply Physics

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